

**ELECTION OF INVENTION**

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 17, 2010, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group II, claims 2-8 and 24.

Applicant makes this election with traverse. Applicant's traversal begins on page 3 of this paper.

**REMARKS**

The Office asserts that US PGPub. No. 2001/0049846 to Guzzi *et al.* (*Guzzi*) teaches “the same or corresponding technical features of Groups I, II, and III ...” Therefore, the Office asserts that none of the features of Groups I, II, and III constitute a special technical feature....” *Office Action* at ¶ 4-5. Applicant respectfully traverses the Office’s assertion. Groups I, II, and III relate to the same or corresponding special technical features. Guzzi does not disclose these features.

*Guzzi* discloses a work piece identifier. *Guzzi* at ¶ 0065. “The work piece identifier (e.g., RF ID tag, bar code) might comprise a serial number that is unique to the work piece item (clothing garment).” *Id.* *Guzzi* describes an ID tag 56. “The ID tag 56 transmits a serial number to the ID device 23.” *Id.* at ¶ 0073. Thus, *Guzzi*’s work piece identifier and/or ID tag have only information consisting of a serial number. *Guzzi* never contemplated or disclosed receiving anything more than a serial number from a work piece identifier or ID tag attached to a single article. *Guzzi* uses the serial number to retrieve data concerning the work piece. This work piece data was previously stored in a database in a consumer appliance, not on the work piece identifier or ID tag.

Group I, which includes independent claims 1 and 9, includes at least the special technical features of “a reader unit for receiving a signal from an information tag on each piece of laundry ... a display unit for displaying various kinds of information obtained by the reader unit, ...” as recited in claims 1 and 9. However, *Guzzi* only discloses obtaining one piece/type of information, a serial number, from his work piece identifier or ID tag. *Guzzi* does not disclose obtaining “various kinds of information” from his work piece identifier or ID tag.

Group II, which includes independent claim 2, includes at least the special technical features of “an information obtaining step for obtaining information on washing pieces of laundry from information tags ...,” as recited in claim 2. However, *Guzzi* only discloses obtaining one piece/type of information, a serial number, from his work piece identifier or ID tag. *Guzzi* does not disclose obtaining “information on washing pieces of laundry” from his work piece identifier or ID tag.

Group III, which includes independent claims 12 and 18, includes at least the special technical features of “an information obtaining step for obtaining information on properties of

each piece of laundry from an information tag on the piece of laundry ... an information retrieving step for retrieving information to be attended to in washing from the information of properties obtained thus...,” as recited in claim 12, or “an information obtaining step for obtaining information on properties of each piece of laundry from an information tag on the piece of laundry ... an information retrieving step for retrieving recommendable information on setting operation of each cycle from the information of properties obtained thus...,” as recited in claim 18. However, *Guzzi* only discloses obtaining one piece/type of information, a serial number, from his work piece identifier or ID tag. *Guzzi* does not disclose obtaining “information on properties of each piece of laundry” from his work piece identifier or ID tag.

Accordingly, the groups of inventions derived by the Office do relate to a single general inventive concept because they do poses the same or corresponding special technical features. Additionally, *Guzzi* does not disclose these same or corresponding special technical features.

For at least all of the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the requirement for restriction and examination of all pending claims of the application.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,  
/Michael I. Angert/  
Michael I. Angert  
Registration No.: 46,522  
McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP  
1900 K Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel.: 202-496-7500  
Fax: 202-496-7756  
Attorneys for Applicant